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A HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF

THOMAS PRENCE

COMPILED BY

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FOR

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HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THOMAS PRENCE

THOMAS (1) PRENCE, born, probably about 1600, in England, came over in the ship, the Fortune, which arrived in November, 1621. As then stated, he was "in the twenty-second year of his age."

His father Thomas Prence, resident of All Saints Barking, London, made his will, 31 July 1630, which was proved 14 August 1630. He stated that he was a carriage-maker. No wife was mentioned, but three children, viz., daughter Katherine, wife of Ambrose Crayford, of Redrith, Surrey, mariner, daughter Rebecca, wife of Thomas Diple, citizen and merchant tailor of London, and "son Thomas Prence now remayninge in New England in the pts beyond the seas one beere bole of silver and alsoe my seale Ringe of gold to be del^d to him at his next return."

The registers of All Saints, Barking, London, were examined, 1920-1, by J. Gardner Bartlett, genealogist, but contained nothing of the name Prence or Prince. Mr. Bartlett states that although there is no carriage-makers', there is a coach-makers' company. How early their records begin is not known. They should give, as in the case of similar companies, the apprenticeship, birthplace and parentage of the person thereto belonging.

In less than three years after his arrival in the Plymouth Colony Thomas Prence married, 5 August 1624, Patience Brewster, daughter of Elder William Brewster. With wife Patience, son Thomas and daughter Rebecca, Thomas Prence shared in the Division of Cattle, 1627.

He settled in that part of Plymouth Colony which is now Duxbury. In April 1632 his name appears among those "which promise to remoue their fam[ilies] to liue in the towne in the winter time that they [may] the better repair to the worship of God." In the earliest tax list of New Plymouth that can be found,—that of 2 Jan. 1632/3, the amount of £1 7^s is placed against the name of Thomas Prence. That year he had become a freeman.

Early as 1626 Isaac Allerton went to England to ascertain what negotiations might be made with the Adventurers towards relieving the situation existing between them and the colonists of New

Plymouth. Allerton returned in 1627, bearing an agreement between The Adventurers to New Plymouth in New England in America of one part, and Isaac Allerton "one of the planters resident at Plimouth" agent, of the other part, whereby Allerton was to obtain others with him to assume the debt of £1800 due the Adventurers. The following July 1627 Allerton had secured his partners or company. They were William Bradford, Miles Standish, Isaac Allerton, Edward Winslow, William Brewster, the three young men John Howland, John Alden and Thomas Prence, of the Plymouth Colony, with four of their friends among the Adventurers, viz., James Sherley, John Beauchamp, Richard Andrews and Timothy Hatherly. They assumed not only the debt of £1800 due the Adventurers, but another debt of £600, making £2400 in all. The terms of the agreement read as follows:

"First, it is agreeed and covenanted betweexte the said parties that the afforesaid William Bradford, Captain Myles Standish, and Isaack Allerton, &c., have undertaken, and doe by these presents covenant and agree to pay, discharge, and acquite the said collony of all the debtes both due for the purchass or any other belonging to them at the day of the date of these presents.

"Secondly, the above said parties are to have and freely injoye the pinass latly built, the boat at Manamett, and the shallop called the Bass-boat, with all other impliments to them belonging that is in the store of the said company; with all the whole stock of furs, bells, beads, corne, wampumpeak, hatchetts, knives, &c., that is now in the storre or any way due unto the same uppon accounte.

"Thirdly, That the above said parties have the whole trade to themselves, their heires and assignes, with all the privileges thereof as the said collonie doth now or may use the same for six full years, to begin the last of September next insuing.

"Fourthly, In furder consideration of the discharge of the said debtes, every severall purchaser doth promise and covenante yearly to pay or cause to be payed to the above said parties during the full terme of the said six yeares three bushells of corne or six pounds of tobacco, at the undertaker's choyse.

"Fifthly, The said undertakers shall dureing the afforesaid terme bestow fifty pounds per annum in hose and shoese, to be brought over for the collonie's use, to be sould unto them for corne at six shillings per bushell.

"Sixthly, That at the end of the said terme of six yeares the whole trade shall returne to the use and benefite of the said collonie as before.

“Lastly, if the afforesaid undertakers, after they have acquainted their friends in England with the covenants, doe (upon the first returne) resolve to performe them, and undertake to discharge the debtes of the said collony according to the true meaning and intente of these presentes, then they are (upon such notice given) to stand in full force; otherwise all things to remaine as formerly they were, and a true accounte to be given to the said collonie of the disposing of all things according to the former order.”

Thus did Thomas Prence, a young man of but twenty-seven years of age, pledge himself and his fortune with the leading spirits of the colony, Bradford, Brewster and the others. These twelve men bravely took upon their shoulders the burden of the debt of the colony, venturing a large sum in the hope of development of their country's resources at a time when that country was in sore need of support such as they might hope to give.

At the Court, 1 Jan. 1633/4, Mr. Thomas Prence was elected Governor for the Colony, “to enter upon the place the first of March or the 27 of the same, and to execute the office of Gov^r for one whole yeare from the time of his entry.” At the expiration of his year he became an assistant, first, under Governor William Bradford, and, second, under Governor Edward Winslow. While assistant, he was elected, also, as treasurer, 3 Jan. 1636/7, and, 7 June 1637, “by lott to be for the counsell of warr, and to goe forth wth them.” It is significant that Prence was a man of recognized superior ability, from the fact that he was raised to the highest offices in the Colony, all before he had attained forty years of age. He was again elected Governor, 6 March 1637/8, for the year following:—“Wheras M^r Thomas Prince is this Court elected Gounor, and in regard of an act of the Court requiring his residency and gouernment to be held at Plymouth and that M^r Prince was very unwilling, and refused to vndergoe the same, yet taking the same into further consideraçon, was willing (at the request of the Court) to condescend therevnto vpon two condiçons, w^{ch} were these, first that M^r Bradford would still continue Gouvernor vntill M^r Prince could puide himself in some measure fitt for the place, wherevnto M^r Bradford condescended, so that it might not be longer than the next quarterly Court; and the second condiçon was, that the Court would dispence wth the said act, and that he might reside at Dux-borrow, (if wthout manefest detryment he cannot remooe to Plymouth,) the w^{ch} he pmiseth to doe if possibly he cann, and in the meane season to keepe his Quarterly Court at Plymouth, wherevnto the Court did consent, laying aside the force of the

said act for this psent but not to be a psident for tyme to come."

Thomas Prence had married, three years before this time, as his second wife, Mary Collier, the daughter of William Collier. As Collier was also living in Duxbury at the time, it is readily seen how Mary, the wife of the Governor, would be equally indisposed with him to remove their home to Plymouth.

Again, 2 June 1640, Prence was chosen assistant, "Mr Thomas Prence also elected, being absent by reason of sicknes, is expected by the Goun^r, Assistants, and the countrey when God shall restore him to health. 1 Sept. 1640 Mr Thom Prence, form ly elected an Assistant, now sworne." He was retained as assistant from that time until 1657 when he again accepted governorship of the Colony, which position he filled until his death, 29 March 1673. It is interesting to note that for the period from 1621 to 1673, but three men had held the office of governor, viz., William Bradford, Edward Winslow and Thomas Prence. John Carver, the first governor of Plymouth Colony, had held it but a few months up to the time of his death in April 1621.

Not only as Governor, Assistant and Treasurer did Thomas Prence serve his country. The Plymouth Colony Court records reveal many other positions filled by him. With Capt. Miles Standish he was appointed, 3 Oct. 1639, "to heare and determine all differences & controûsies amongst the coñittees and inhabit^s" of the town of Sandwich. At a Court held 7 June 1642, Mr. Thomas Prence and two others were ordered "to treat^e wth Duxborrow men about their desire & pposiçon, and to sett their bounds betwixt them. . . ." He was on the list of those able to bear arms, August, 1643. He was chosen again on the Council of War, 1642, 1643, 1646, 1653, besides serving as president of that body, 1658 and 1667. At a town meeting held 17 Feb. 1658, "promesed freely by Mr. Thomas Prince to find a man & horse wth compleat furniture for the Contrys Servis for two years at his owne Charges & the time to begin first of June 1659." At the same meeting of the town of Eastham, then Nausett, it was granted that "Mr. Thomas Prince shall have his proportion of Land that is Done to him Layd out at Tonsett" [Toneset Neck, south-east of Town Cove, Orleans, then part of Nausett]. Prence had early come into possession of about two hundred acres of the best farming land of Nausett, with six others, Edward Bangs, John Doane, Richard Higgins, Nicholas Snow, Josiah Cook and John Smalley, settling there in 1644. Numerous are the grants made to him as recorded upon the Plymouth Colony records. Freeman, in his History of Cape Cod, mentions, "The

EASTHAM.

THE original Indian name of Eastham was *Nauset*. After being purchased from the natives, it was granted by the court to the settlers at Plymouth, in 1644. This included the present townships of Eastham, Wellfleet, and Orleans. Some of the principal settlers were Thomas Prince, John Doane, Nicholas Snow, Josias Cook, Richard Higgins, John Smalley, and Edward Bangs: these persons are said to have been among the most respectable inhabitants of Plymouth. The settlement commenced the year (1644) the grant was made, and was incorporated as a town in 1646. A church was gathered soon after their arrival, but the inhabitants were not sufficiently numerous to support a minister till 1672, when Rev. Samuel Treat, of Milford, Con. was ordained.



Ancient Pear Tree in Eastham.

The above is a representation of an ancient pear tree, on the land now owned by Mr. Nathan Kenny, twenty-one miles from Barnstable court-house. It was brought from England by Thomas Prince, for many years governor of Plymouth colony. Governor Prince removed from Duxbury to Eastham in 1640 or 1645, and, leaving Eastham, returned to Plymouth in 1665, so that this tree, planted by him, is now probably about two hundred years old. It is still in a vigorous state. The fruit is small, but excellent; and it is stated that it yields annually, upon an average, fifteen bushels of fruit. Governor Prince's house stood about thirty or forty rods eastward of this place. Mr. Treat, the first minister, lived about one fourth of a mile to the north-east. The house seen in the engraving stands on the site formerly occupied as a garrison house.

celebrated pear-tree said to have been brought from England and planted here with his own hand, yielded 'about 15 bu. a yeare of fair and pleasant fruit' long after becoming remarkable for its longevity." Somewhat of the tree was yet standing when Freeman wrote his history, 1862. It is said to have been blown down in 1879. In the Museum of the Mass. Historical Society is a piece of the said tree. It is described in the catalogue of 1885 as, "64. Wood. A piece of wood cut, in the autumn of 1851, from the ancient pear-tree planted in Eastham by Governor Prince more than two hundred years ago. The tree still flourishes. Given Feb. 11, 1852." The name of the donor is not mentioned. This piece of the tree is about 5 inches long and measures $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches across the widest portion of one end and $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches across the other end. A portion of the bark is gone. Although we are unable to vouch for the origin of this old tree, traditionally ascribed to Governor Prince, John W. Barber, in his Historical Collections, published early as 1839, when the tree was still in a healthy condition, credits its appearance in Eastham to the early Plymouth governor. [See page from Barber's Historical Collections herewith.]

As Commissioner of the United Colonies, Prence served 1645, 1650, 1653-8, and 1662-72.

An agreement made between Prence and his servant William Honywell indicates the justice of the man in his dealings,—“The last of Februar., 1639, Memorand: that wheras Willm Honywell is to serue Mr Thomas Prence vntill June next, and some further tyme w^{ch} he should also serue for absenting himself diuers tymes from his seruice,—now, in consideraçon that the said Willm Honywell shall wholly imploy himself in setting, planťing, and weeding the acres of the said Mr Thom Prence, newly taken in on the south side of the town Plym, or as much thereof as hee can, & not loyter or work wth any other man except it be for worke againe, or by lycence from Mr Prence. The said Mr Thomas Prence hath released the said Willm Honywell all the terme he should haue serued him, and shall fynd him seede corne to set the land wthall; and the sd Willm Honywell shall haue thone half of the crop at haruest for his paynes. And it is agreed vpon that the said W^m Honywell shall remayne in house wth Thomas Atkinson, and that Mr Prence shall allowe him so much in corne as hee shall agree wth the said Thom Atkinson for, for his dyett & being in his house; and the said W^m Honywell shall pay the corne againe to Mr Prence out of his share of the crop at haruest, and that Mr Prence will spare his gratehouse to gather & dresse vp the corne in at haruest, and that herevpon the xij bushells

of corne, w^{ch} the 3^d Willm should haue had at thend of his terme, is relinquished, onely the said Willm is to haue the xxv acres of land according to his couenant."

In the early days of the Colony it was not alone lands that were mortgaged:—"Memorand, the xxvijth May, 1639: That whereas Mr John Combe had formly mortgaged, assigned, & set oū vnto Mr Thomas Prence one browne cow called Berry, w^{ch} was sent him out of England, and that the said Mr Prence hath released the same vnto him againe, now the said Mr John Combe, for and in considera-
cōn that the said Mr Thomas Prence hath vndertaken to pay cer-
taine sumes of money for the said John Combe vnto John Barnes, the first of February next, the said John Combe hath againe as-
signed, set oū, and mortgaged the said brown cowe vnto the said Mr Thom Prence, for his securytie."

The following deed of Mch. 1645 is curious as showing how certain articles used in the construction of a house, as doors, locks, glass, etc., were not, in colonial days, necessarily included in the sale of a house unless so specified:—"Mr Thomas Prence doth acknowleg That for & in considera-
cōn of the sum of one hundred fourty & fiue pounds allowed him in payment to Mr John Beāchamp vpon the said account Hath freely and absolutely bargained and sold vnto m^r Edmond ffreeman All that his house and garden place and barne in Plymouth wth the doores locks glasse and all the shelues in eich roome as now they are & tenn acres of vpland in the woods and about fiue acres at the second brooke eleauen acres or thereabouts by John Barnes lands One farm at Joanes Riuer wth the house doores locks glasse shelues as now they are wainscot table board two bedsteads wth all the outhouseing and fences wth the additions of vpland adjoyneing and six acres of meddow at the great meddow wth all and euery their app^rteñces and all his Right title and interest of and into the said p^rmises and euery pt and pcell thereof wth their appurteñcs. . . ."

Permit was given, 2 Oct. 1650, to Thomas Prince and others, to carry on bass-fishing, viz.:—"Wheras Mr Thō Prence and Mr Willam Paddy haue desired leaue to sett vpon a constant course of basfish-
ing att Cape Cod, supposeing that if God please to blese their proceedings, in time it may proue very beneficiall to this jurisdiction, the Court hauing taken this their motion into serius consideration, thought good for p^rsent, therfore, to condecend to their motion, and therfore haue judged it fitt to giue leaue to Mr Thō Prence, Captaine Miles Standish, and Mr Willam Paddy, with such other of the three townes of Plymⁿ, Duxburrow, and Nawsett as shall joyne

with them vppon the said basfishing, and to that end to make vse of any of the lands, creeks, timber, &c, vppon the Cape land, in such convenient places as they shall chuse for y^t purpose.

And wheras wee are informed y^t two companies, with nett, boats, and other craft, is as much as the place can beare, it is therefore graunted y^t the p^ties abouesaid, for the better managing of the said voyage, may suit themselues the most conuenientest they can for the seuerall companies out of the three townes, or any two of them, for fitt seting vppon the work intended; and y^t the first companie may make choise of the place to build vppon, and the 2^{cond} companie to make choise when they are fitt, that so a due orderly course may bee obserued in the managing of it.

Furthermore, Mr Thō Prenc is a^pointed by the Court to purchase what lands yet remaineth on y^t side Cape Cod vnurchased from the true propriators of them for the vse aboue mensioned, and to make returne of his proceeding to the Court in June next y^t then the said Court may dispose of such p^cells of the said land to the aboue mensioned p^ties for the ends proposed as aforsaid.

The 9th of June, 1651. The aboue mensioned p^ruilidge, is conferred vnto the aboue mencioned p^ties, together with Mr Willam Bradford, in the behalfe of the aforesaid townes, for the tearme of three years from the next October, and then to returne to the countrys disposing."

One of the lessees of the Kennebec trade in 1649 and 1655/6 was Thomas Prenc and he served as commissioner to Kennebec, 7 Mch. 1653. Under date of 3 July, 1656 "The Court doe allow vnto Mr Thomas Prenc, for his goeing vnto Kennebecke in the behalfe of the countrey to settle the goūment there, a smale gratuitie of the summe of six pounds, to bee paied either in that which is due to the countrey from Kennebecke, or in oyle due to the countrey, acknowledgig it to little; but in regard of the low estate of the countrey, and the many charges on the same, they request him to accept it; and incase hee shall not judge it sufficient, they are willing to inlarge."

The governor made considerable sacrifice in removing from the locality which had been his choice for a home, to reside, at request of the colony, nearer his seat of office. The colonists probably realized this for Court records show that, from time to time, certain allowances or concessions were made to Gov. Prenc. Notably, 1 June 1663,—“It is ordered by the Court, that a convenient hansome rome bee aded to the Goūnors house, and that the charg^e of the building thereof bee defrayed out of the pay for Kenebecke, if that kind of

pay will doe it; and if not, than a p̄te of those goods, and the rest to bee raised by rate, and that the major, the Treasurer, and Cornett Studson are impowered to take course for the procureing of the thinge done, on such conditions as they can." At the same Court, "The sume of thirty pounds is allowed to the Goû for his extraordinary charges this yeare, in the best pay that wee can make it." Then, again, at the Court of 3 Oct. 1665,—“Wheras, in regard of the remote distance of our honored Goû his former habitation, and being the countrey saw reason to desire and request his remouall vnto the towne of Plymouth for the more conuenient adminnestration of justice, and that, by Gods prouidence hee is now remoued to his great inconuenience and detriment,—This Court haue ordered and doe vnanimously agree to alow vnto him the sume of fifty pounds a yeare soe longe as hee shall remaine in the place of Goû. And wheras hee is resident in a place purchased by the countrey for that end, this Court haue likewise ordered, that incase hee shall decease att any time whiles hee is in the place of Goû and inhabiting the said seat or being, that then his family shall and may without molestation continew in the said place or seate for the full tearme of one yeare after his decease att the least; and likewise that incase there should bee any alteration that any other should bee chosen to the place of Goû whiles he liueth, that hee shall and may, notwithstanding, remaine in the said place without molestation for the full tearme of one yeare after such alteration att the least.” The location of his residence in Plymouth was at a place known as Plaindealing, (a tract extending from High Cliff to the Kingston line, and now known as ‘Seaside’). [For further account of this and other dwelling-places of Gov. Prence, see “Homes of Governor Prence” appended to this sketch.] The Court by request of Mr. Prence, voted, 3 June 1668, to sell him his then residence, with certain conditions:—“In answeare to a proposition made by Mr Thomas Prence, Goû, to purchase the seate hee now liueth on att Plaindealing, in the township of Plymouth, this Court did voate the sale thereof vnto him. . . . The tearmes and conditions wherof are as followeth:—Vizs: that the said house and land, with all and singulare the appurtenances and priuiledges belonging thervnto, vizs, the whole seat, with all the additions and enlargments appertaining thervnto, is bargained and sold vnto the said Mr Thomas Prence, to him and his heires and assignes for euer, for and in consideration of the sume of one hundred and fifty pound, in current countrey pay, to be payed one third therof this time three yeare, another third therof this time six yeare, and the other third this

time nine yeare. It is likewise agreed by and between the said pties, that if it be to be sold att any time, the countrey shall haue the refusall therof, and to haue it on the same tearmes it is now sold, prouided that what it shalbe the better by any expence on it in the interem, it be payed for ouer and aboue the sume aboue mensioned."

Like others of the Colony, Governor Prence exercised his judgment against the religious sect known as Quakers. Stern he often was with regard to them. Arthur Howland, Sr. became friendly to the sect. He was several times obliged to pay a fine because he failed to attend public worship. He sometimes harbored them in his home, contrary to the law of the Colony. For that misdemeanor, also, he had to meet his fine. When, therefore, in 1667 or 1668, Arthur Howland, Jr., aspired to the affections of "Mistris Elizabeth Prence," daughter of the Governor, that was the height of audacity in the eyes of the girl's parents. The Court Orders state,—“Arthur Howland, Junr, for inueigling of Mistris Elizabeth Prence and makeing motion of marriage to her, and prosecuting the same contrary to her parents likeing, and without theire consent, and directly contrary to theire mind and will was centanced to pay a fine of fise pounds and to find surties for his good behauior, and in speciall that hee desist from the vse of any meanes to obtaine or retaine her affections as aforsaid.” This was in the Court of 5 March 1666/7. He was to appear at the Court of 2 July 1667, which he accordingly did and “did sollemly and seriously engage before this Court, that hee will wholly desist and neuer apply himselfe for the future, as formerly hee hath done, to Mistris Elizabeth Prence in 1eference vnto marriage.” Whether or not the consent of the parents was obtained, young Arthur and Elizabeth are recorded as marrying but five months thereafter, viz., 9 Dec. 1667.

Governor Prence has been credited with being prominent in the establishment of the free or public school. This is confirmed by a record of the Court assembled 4 March 1672/3 before Thomas Prence Esqr Gouvernor: ‘Wheras att the Generall Court of his matie holden att New Plymouth in June, anno 1670, the Court, vpon diuers serious considerations them thervnto moueing, did freely giue and graunt all such proffetts as might or should annually acrow or grow dew to this collonie, from time to time, for fishing with netts or saines att Cape Codd for mackerell, basse, or herrings, as by the said graunt doth fully appeer, to be imployed and improved for and towards a free schoole in some towne of this jurisdiction, for the training vp of youth in littrature for the good and benifitt of posteritie, provided a beginning were made within one yeare

after the said graunt; and that the ordering and managing of the said affaire was by the Court comitted to the Goû and Assistants, or any four of them; and that within the time limited there hath bin a beginning made att Plymouth, and hither to continued, by Gods blessing, with good successe, as vpon examination may appeer; . . . ” With said preamble the Court proceeds to appoint a steward of the school, viz. Mr. Thomas Hinckley, who shall take care of the money received and expended, “and that hee doe giue a trew accompt . . . once or twice in the yeare vnto the Goû and majestrates, or any four of them, as it shalbe required . . . ”

Freeman, in his history of Cape Cod, says, that the school “was established at Plymouth, the seat of government, and was supported six years by the Cape Cod fisheries.” Pratt, in his history of Eastham, says of Gov. Prence, “He is particularly to be applauded for his solicitous attention to the establishment of schools in the colony, and the cause of general education; . . . ”

The latest grant of land to Thomas Prence was, probably, that of Mch. 4, 1672/3, when he was one of ten men to receive, each, one hundred acres of land from a tract containing one thousand acres, “lying and being neare the Old Indian Way att Teticutt Riuer about a mile westerly, where Namassakett Riuer runs into Teticutt, and soe runs easterly, marked and numbered by the riuer syde.”

The following accounts of the death of Governor Prince are to be found, respectively, in the Plymouth Colony Births, Marriages and Burials; in the Plymouth Town Records; and in the Plymouth Church Records:—

“Thomas Prence Esquire Gov^r: of the Jurisdiction of New Plymouth Died the 29th of March 1673 and was Interred the 8th of Aprill following; after hee had served God in the office of Gov^r: sixteen yeares or neare therunto hee finished his Course in the 73 yeare of his life; hee was a worthy Gentleman very pious; and very able for his office and faithfull in the Discharge therof studious of peace a welwiller to all that feared god; and a terrour to the wicked, his; Death was much lamented, and his body honorably buried att Plymouth the Day and yeare abovemensioned.”

“M^{er} Thomas Prince Esquir deceased on the 29 of : March 1673: Who for sixteen years past was governor of Plimouth Coloney and god made him a great blesing to his people therein.”

“In 1673: was a very awfull frowne of God upon this chh & colony in the death of M^r Thomas Prince the Gouvernour in the 73d yeare of his Age; when this Colony was in a hazardous condition upon the death of Gov^r Bradford the lott was cast upon M^r Princ(e)

to be his successour, God made him a repairer of breaches & a meanes to setle those shakings that were then threatning, he was excellently qualifed for the office of a Governour, he had a countenance full of majesty & therein as well as otherwise was a terrour to evill doers, he was very amiable & pleasant in his whole conversation & highly esteemed of the saints & acknowledged by all; In the time of his sicknesse the chh sought God by Fasting & Prayer, but God would not be intreated any longer to spare him, but he dyed on March, 29: & was honourably interred, April, 8:"

That the Court carried out the agreement made with Mr. Prence, at the time he bought the property at Plaindealing, is shown in the following records:—

"Att this Court," (3 June 1673) "a tender was made of the house and lands which our honored Gour, Thomas Prence, Esqr, died possessed of, on condition of the repaying againe of what was expended in the additions and reparations therunto; and accordingly was by the country accepted."

"Order is giuen by this Court" (4 July 1673) "vnto the Treasurer, to make sale in the behalfe of the countrey of the house and farme our late honored Gour, Mr Prence, liued in, and in the mean time to improue it the best hee can, for the benifitt of the countrey."

"This Court" (7 July 1674) "requests and impowers Josias Winslow, Esq, Goû, to sett out and to farme lett the house and land that was lately the house of our honored Goû Prence, deceased, and to dispose of it by rent, soe it may be preserued from ruin, and as it may conduce in a probable way to the good of the countrey."

In 1675, "This Court voates the Country to repay, within two yeers after the date heerof the fifty pounds to Gour Prence his executrix which hee in his life time payed to the Treasurer in the Countreyes behalfe as pte of the purchase of his late dwelling house and lands att Plymouth on condition that if the said Executrix; together with all the children concerned therin; which are in this Country, shall resigne vp the deeds which was giuen to the said late Gour Prence by the Treasurer in the Countreyes behalfe; and alsoe shall and doe giue sufficient evidence in law to the Treasurer in the behalfe of the Countrey for the said house and lands; with warrantice onely from by and vnder them the said executrix and children their and euery of their heires and assignes for euer; and that then vpon their signeing and sealing evidence vnto the Treasurer aforsaid, hee alsoe in behalfe of the Country signe and seale a generall release to them of all debts dues bills bonds and demaunds whatsoever;

It is alsoe further ordered by this Court That Mr Thomas Hinckley Capt: James Cudworth and Leift: Morton are Impowered to acte with the Treasurer in the p^rmises; or incase of his neglect or refusall to acte in the p^rmises or any pte therof; That then the s^d Mr Thomas Hinckley Capt: Cudworth and Leift: Morton be heerby fully Impowered to acte therin in the Countreyes behalfe without him as alsoe to dispose of the said house and lands, by seting leasing or selling the same in the Countreyes behalfe as they shall see cause."

The will of Thomas Prence is given at length. It should be noted that he always signed himself "Prence."

"Thomas Prence Esq^r: his Last Will and Testament

To all Christian people to whom these p^rsents shall Come Thomas Prence Esq^r sendeth Greet &c

And further know yea that I the said Thomas Prence being att p^rsent weake in body but of p^rfect and Disposing memory, and understanding Doe make and Declare my last will and testament as followeth;

Imp^r: I bequeath my body to the Dust in Decent buriell and my soule to God that gave it; in good hope and assurance of a Comfortable resurrection through his grace and the merriits of my deare Redeemer unto life and Glory;

And Respecting my temporall estate wherwith the Lord hath blessed mee my will is that Mary my beloved wife shall have such houshold goods of Any kind as were hers, before wee married, Returned to her againe, after my Decease and if any of them, be much Impared or be wanting, that shee shall make it good out of my estate in such goods as shee Desireth;

Item I give unto my said loveing wife my best bed and the furniture therunto appertaining and, the Court Cubberd that stands in the new Parlour with the Cloth and Cushen that is on it and an horse and three Cowes such as shee shall make Choise of, and foure of my best silver spoones and alsoe During her Naturall life, I give her the Rents and proffitts of my p^rte of the mill at Satuckett; and of the lands adjoyning, and my Debts and legacies being first payed; I Doe further give unto my said wife a full third p^rte of my p^rsonall estate that Remaines

Item I give unto my Daughter Jane the wife of Marke Snow my silver tankerd

Item I give to my Daughter Mary Tracye a silver wine Cupp and a Dram Cupp

Item I give to my Daughter Sarah howes my biggest beer bowle

Item I give unto my Daughter Elizabeth howland my silver salt

Item I give to my Daughter Judith Barker my lesser silver bowle

Item I give unto my Grandchild Theophilus Mayo and to the heires of his body lawfully begotten, the one halfe of my lands and meddowes att or neare Namassakett in the Townshipp of Middleberry, and all the priviledges therunto belonging;

And in as ffree and ample manor I give unto my Grandchild Sussanna Prence the Daughter of my Deceased son Thomas Prence, the other halfe of my above mensioned lands, and meddowes att Middleberry aforsaid, and to her heires lawfully begotten of her body; But incase such heire be wanting to the above said Theophilus or Sussanna, or both of them; his or her p^rte of the abovesaid lands, shall, att theire Decease not leaveing such heire as abovemensioned; Revert unto, and be equally Devided between my Daughters; or such of them as shalbe then surviveing, or theire heires if all my Daughters should be dead;

Item I give to my said Grandchild Theophilus, and to his heires for ever my p^rte of the Mill and lands adjacent att Satuckett, after the Decease of my wife; and this I give for his Incurragement, to proceed in learning;

The Remainder of My estate my will is shalbe equally Devided to my seaven Daughters, hannah Marcy Jane Mary Elizabeth, Sarah and Judith, and my above mensioned Grandchild Susanna Prence

And finally I Doe ordaine appoint and make Mary my be loved wife sole Exequitrix to this my last Will and Testament and Doe Desire my loveing frind Major Josias Winslow, to be healpfull therin unto her as need may Require; In witnes wherof, I have heerunto sett my hand and seale, this thirteenth Day of March 1672, Reserveing whiles I live; power to adde or alter as I see cause

In p^rsence of John Cotton

Tho. Prence (seale)

Thomas Cushman

A further supplement or addition, and p^rte of the last Will and Testament of the honored Thomas Prence Esq^r: Deceased as followeth

I Give unto my son, m^r John ffreeman Speeds Cronicle and

Wilsens Dictionary and the abridgment; and Simpsons history of the Church and Newmans Concordance

I Give unto my Daughter Elizabeth howland a blacke heiffer

I Give a little yellow heiffer to Lydia Sturtivant;

I Give to my Daughter Jane a bedd, and another bedd to my Daughter Elizabeth howland

I Give to my Grandson Theophilus Mayo all my bookes fitt for him in learning, and if hee Carry it well to his Grandmother I then give him a bedd,

These additions I have made to my Will written on the other-side and Doe attest them as p^rte of my Last Will and Testament this 28th of March 1673,

Alsoe I Desire my brother Thomas Clarke to be healpfull to my wife as need May Require;

Wee whose names are underwritten Doe Testify That these p^rticulares above written were the additions made by Thomas Prence Esq^r: to his will written on the otherside; and Distinctly spoken by himselfe in our hearing although by Reason of the shakeing of his hand, hee Could not write his Name but made those markes above;

John Cotton

Matthew ffuller

The marke E T of Ephram Tinkham

James Clarke;"

The Inventory of the estate of Thomas Prence was extensive.

The apparel and books consisted of the following, carefully itemized:—

Apparrell

Item 1 blacke broadcloth Cloake	02 . . 00 . . 00
Item 1 blacke stuffe suite	02 . . 10 . . 00
Item 1 blacke turkey tamy Cloake	02 . . 00 . . 00
Item 1 broadcloth Cloake	03 . . 00 . . 00
Item 1 Cullered stuffe suite and Coat	02 . . 10 . . 00
Item 1 broadcloth longe Coate	03 . . 00 . . 00
Item 1 paire of broadcloth briches	01 . . 00 . . 00
Item 1 blacke Coate and a smale Coate	00 . . 16 . . 00
Item 1 smale Coate	00 . . 18 . . 00
Item 1 stuffe Coate	00 . . 12 . . 00
Item 1 ryding paire of briches	00 . . 08 . . 00
1 old Cloth Coate	00 . . 08 . . 00

19 . . 02 . . 00

more Aparrell		
Item 1 Cloth hood	00..04..00	
Item 1 paire of ffringed Gloves wrought with Gould and silver	01..00..00	
Item 1 paire of Good Buckskin Gloves	00..06..00	
Item 1 hatt and Case	00..16..00	
Item 1 paire of silke stockens	00..14..00	
Item 1 paire of woolen stockens		
Item 2 paire of wosted stockens	00..08..00	
Item 2 paire of yarne Gloves	00..03..00	
Item 2 paire of shoes	00..11..00	
Item 1 paire of old boots and boothose topps	00..07..00	
Item 1 Dowlis shirt	00..12..00	
Item 1 Dowlis shirt	00..10..00	
Item 1 holland shirt	00..08..00	
Item 1 paire of Demety Drawers	00..08..00	
Item 6 bands	00..12..00	
Item 5 bands	00..07..06	
Item 4 paire of Cuffes	00..02..00	
Item 1 lased Capp	00..02..00	
Item 3 Capps	00..03..00	
Item 2 handkerchiffes	00..02..00	

The sume of the Apparell is

27..11..06

Bookes

Item a Great bible 10 ^s 1 Psalm book 6 ^d	00..10..06
Item m ^r Ainsworths Anotations of the 5 bookes of Moses	01..10..00
Item Byfeild upon the Collosians	00..05..00
Item John Weames Exposition on the law of Moses	00..12..00
Item Weames off the Lathocker in Scotland	00..15..00
Item 1 exposition on the revelation	00..06..00
Item 1 booke of Docter prestons unbound	00..02..00
Item m ^r hookers Survey of Church Dissipline	00..02..06
Item Nortons Orthodox evangelist	00..02..00
Item Burrows Gospell Conversation	00..01..06
Item another of Gospell Worship	00..01..00
Item m ^r Tillinghast Generation worke	00..02..00
Item New Englands Memoriall	00..02..00
Item a little Index and an answare to a question	00..02..00
Item Colpeppers London Dispensatory	00..02..00

Item 7 paper Sermon bookes	00..01..09
Item 1 great bible	00..08..00
Item a Dispute betwixt the Lord Bishop and the Jesuite	00..04..00
Item the Key of the hebrew tongue	00..01..00
Item 1 Great old Psalme booke	00..00..06
1 great Plalme booke	00..02..06
Item 2 law bookes	00..02..00
Item 100 of Psalme bookes	07..10..00
Item Willam Cornwallis Essaies	00..01..06
Item 1 Psalme booke 1 booke of private Comunion	00..02..03
Item Prins workes on Canterberrys tryall	00..01..06
Item the voulcanus	00..00..06
Item 50 smale paper bookes to be Distributed bound up	

13..03..08

The whole sume of the severall p ^r ticulares of the Estate errours excepted, Amounts to	422..10..07
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Debts owing from the estate	54..09..06
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“Wee are Informed of these severall prsells and Tracts of lands belonging to the Testator;

Item one hundred acres of land lying in the Towne of Middleberry att or neare Winnapaukett pond and the brooke Goeing from it

Item one share of Meddow lying in a Certaine tract of Meddow Called the Majors meddow that lyeth upon Namassakett River; betwixt the pond and the waire

Item one hundred acres of land lying on the Nörtherly syde of Teticutt River

Item a Considerable Tract of land that Lyeth on the easterly syde of Namassakett River between Winnapauckett pond and a Tract of Land Called the Majors purchase;

Item eight acres of land on the westerly syde of Namassakett River

Item a graunt of ten or twelve acres of Land and a smale p sell of Meddow att Jones River meddow in the Townshipp of Plymouth

Item about ten acres of Land lying on the south syde of a Cart way that Goeth to Lakenham; Called Prence Bottome, in Plymouth

Item the one halfe of fifty or sixty acres of Land and three acres of Meddow between him and Major Winslow of Middleberry

Item 20 acres of land and three acres of Meddow att Tonsett in the Township of Eastham;

Item 8 acres of land lying on Pochey Iland in the aforsaid Eastham

Item one fourth prte of a Mill att Satuckett and lands ajoyning to it"

Thomas Prence was married at least four times. His first wife, whom he married 5 Aug. 1624, said to have been the ninth marriage in the colony, was Patience Brewster, the daughter of Elder William Brewster, of the Mayflower. She died of "the pestilent fever" before 12 Dec. 1634, as mentioned in letter of John Winthrop of that date. He married, second, Mary Collier, one of the daughters of William Collier, 1 April 1635. By 8 December 1662 he had married Apphia () Freeman, the mother of Samuel Freeman, as on that date Thomas Prence made a deed of gift "unto my sonne Samuell ffreeman and Mercye his wife." His last wife was Mary, the widow of Thomas Howes of Yarmouth. That marriage must have occurred between 26 Feb. 1665/6 and 1 Aug. 1668, on which dates she signed herself, respectively, as "Mary Howes" and "Mary Prence." Mary, the widow of Thomas Prence, died, 9 Dec. 1695.

Thomas Prence had the following children, of whom the first four were by his marriage to Patience Brewster; the next three are generally conceded to have been by marriage to Mary Collier; while it is uncertain whether the last two children were by wife Mary Collier or by wife Apphia () Freeman:— (The order of births not known)

i. Thomas (2), born, Duxbury, probably, before the Division of Cattle of 1627; went to England, married, and died before his father, leaving widow and a daughter Susanna; the daughter Susanna was remembered in the will of her grandfather Governor Thomas Prence, March 1673; Susanna, was single, 10 June 1676, of Catherine Gate, London, & died without issue

ii. Rebecca (2), born, Duxbury, probably, before the Division of Cattle of 1627; married Edmund Freeman, Jr., Sandwich, 22 April 1646, having one child, Rebecca Freeman who married Ezra Perry and died, widow of Ezra Perry, 16 April 1738; she died, before 18 July 1651, on which date Edmund Freeman, Jr. married, 2d, Margaret Perry

GOVERNOR THOMAS PRENCE

CAME FROM ENGLAND TO PLYMOUTH IN 1621 IN THE FORTUNE. ONE OF THE SEVEN FOUNDERS IN 1644 OF THE PRESENT TOWN OF EASTHAM AND RESIDED THERE ABOUT TWENTY YEARS. HE SERVED AS GOVERNOR'S ASSISTANT 1635 TO 1637 AND 1639 TO 1656 AND WAS CHOSEN GOVERNOR OF PLYMOUTH COLONY IN 1634. AGAIN IN 1638 AND SERVED CONTINUOUSLY IN THAT OFFICE FROM 1657 UNTIL HIS DEATH. MANY TIMES A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF WAR AND TREASURER OF THE COLONY 1637 TO 1640. ELEVEN TERMS HE WAS A COMMISSIONER OF THE UNITED COLONIES. WHILE SERVING AS GOVERNOR HE DIED AT PLYMOUTH MARCH 29, 1673, AGED 73 YEARS.

HIS FIRM INTEGRITY, HIS ENERGY AND SOUND JUDGMENT MADE HIM ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL MEN IN PLYMOUTH COLONY. ESPECIAL HONOR IS DUE HIM FOR HIS EFFORTS IN BEHALF OF EDUCATION. OF HIM IT WAS SAID "GOD MADE HIM A GREAT BLESSING TO HIS PEOPLE."

ERECTED BY HIS DESCENDANTS

1916

In the town hall presented to Eastham by the late Timothy Smith of Boston are five tablets, dedicated 26 August 1916, to five of the seven founders of Eastham, then Nausett, by their descendants. These memorial tablets bear the names of Gov. Thomas Prence, Edward Bangs, John Doane, Richard Higgins and Nicholas Snow.

That to Thomas Prence, a photograph of which appears above, is over the door to a small side room at the left of the entrance-hall. Lieut. Gov. Calvin Coolidge, now the honored President of our nation, fittingly represented the State of Massachusetts in his presentation of the tablet to the memory of the early Plymouth Colony governor.

- iii. Mercy (2), born, Duxbury, probably, about 1631, married "Major" John Freeman, Eastham, 13 Feb. 1649/50; had John, b. 2 Feb. 1650/1, d. yg.; John, b. Dec. 1651; Thomas, b. Sept. 1653; Patience; Edmund, b. June 1657; Mercy, b. July 1659; Hannah; William; Prence, b. 3 Feb. 1665/6, d. yg.; Nathaniel, b. 20 Mch. 1669; Bennet, b. 7 Mch. 1670/1; she died, Eastham, 28 Sept. 1711, aged 80 yrs.; he died, Eastham, 28 Oct. 1719, aged 98 yrs.
- iv. Hannah (2), born, Duxbury, probably; married (1st) Nathaniel Mayo, Eastham, 13 Feb. 1649/50; had 1. Thomas, b. 7 Dec. 1650; 2. Nathaniel, b. 16 Nov. 1652; 3. Samuel, b. 12 Oct. 1655; 4. Hannah, b. 17 Oct. 1657; 5. Theophilus, b. 17 Dec. 1659; 6. Bathsheba, b. after 19 Dec. 1661; 1st hus. Nathaniel Mayo died between date of will and its probate, 19 Dec. 1661 and 4 Mch. 1661/2; she married, 2d, Jonathan Sparrow, between 5 June 1667 when she was still widow Mayo and 11 Sept. 1671 when she signed as "Hannah Sparrow;" by 2d marriage to Jonathan Sparrow, Hannah had at least Patience, b. before 25 Oct. 1675 and Richard, b. about 1675; it is very probable that she was also the mother of Jonathan Sparrow's son Richard, b. Eastham, 17 Mch. 1669/70 who d. in infancy; she died before 23 Nov. 1698 on which date Jonathan Sparrow married his 3d wife, Sarah (Lewis) Cobb at Barnstable; he died 21 Mch. 1706/7
- v. Jane (2), born, Duxbury, probably, 1 Nov. 1637; married Mark Snow (as his 2d wife), Eastham, 9 Jan. 1660/1; had 1. Mary, b. last Nov. 1661; 2. Nicholas, b. 6 Dec. 1663; 3. Elizabeth, b. 9 May 1666, d. 18 Jan. 1675; 4. Thomas b. 6 Aug. 1668; 5. Sarah, b. 10 May 1671; 6. Prence, b. 22 May 1674; 7. Elizabeth, b. 22 June 1676, d. 22 Mch. 1677/8; 8. Hannah, b. 16 Sept. 1679; Mark Snow died, between 23 Nov. 1694 and 9 Jan. 1694/5; widow Jane Snow died May or June 1712 (Nicholas Snow, her son, executor, stated in his account that he cared for his mother at his house "from y^e 26th of october to y^e Latter End of May following,") inventory on estate was taken 28 June 1712. Both Mark Snow and his wife Jane left wills.

- vi. *Mary* (2), born, Duxbury, probably, about 1639
married John Tracy of Duxbury,
(Of whom further)
- vii. *Sarah* (2), born, Duxbury of Eastham, probably, 1643-6,
married Jeremiah Howes,
(Of whom further)
- viii. Elizabeth (2), born, Eastham, probably; married Arthur
Howland, Jr., Marshfield, 9 Dec. 1667; had 1. Mary b.
22 Feb. 1668/9; 2. Ebenezer, b. 7 Dec. 1671; 3. Thomas,
b. 26 Sept. 1672; Arthur (?); Prence; both Arthur and
Elizabeth living late as 11 July 1711. Because of his refusal
to comply with religious observances, (being of Quaker
affiliations) Arthur was thrown into jail, 1684.
- ix. Judith (2), born, Eastham, probably; married (1st) Isaac
Barker, Plymouth Colony, 28 Dec. 1665; had Isaac,
Robert, Samuel, Jabez, Rebecca, Judith, Bathsheba,
Mary, and, possibly, Frances, Lydia and Martha; married
(2d) William Tubbs of Pembroke; William Tubbs died,
Pembroke, 15 Aug. 1718, aged 63 yrs.

Among the printed Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society is a statement that letters still exist to and from Governor Thomas Prence and his relatives in England. On application to the librarian of the said society, they were found to be among the Edward Winslow Papers. These letters, five in number, are valuable as a collection, not only for their contents but also for their age, more than two hundred fifty years old. Three of them, from London, bear date of 15 March 1669/70, and were apparently sent together to the Governor. Of the three, one was from Susanna Edmanson, wife of Thomas Edmanson, but formerly widow of Governor Prence's son Thomas; one was from said Thomas Edmanson; while the third was from Susannah Prince, daughter of said Susanna Edmanson and granddaughter of the Governor. These letters reveal the circumstance that the Governor had sometime before requested that his granddaughter come to him in New England. In a very respectful, courteous manner the mother and stepfather each acknowledge the kindness of the grandfather in extending the invitation. The stepfather considers the distance too great and dangerous for her to come, affectionately adding, "in dede we

The oldest letter of the five is one bearing date of 8 March 1668/9. It was written from Andover, in the county of Hampshire, England, by "John Prince," a cousin of Governor Prentice. He regrets that he cannot see the face of the Governor and those of

his immediate family "as onc I my self did Beehould the face of my Unkell Thomas y^r ffather," explaining that an errand had brought his uncle to Lechlade. He adds, "ssir: y^r father had :2: Brother: the next to y^r ffather: was Robart. And y^e nother was Simon y^e youngest which was my ffather But I never knew him for hee died when I was veary small & also: hee had :3: ssistars the Eldest was name Jeane y^r was mager Milltons mother: y^e next was Alss: which married with on hooss name was whit [?]: a weaver a vearie honnist man and the nothers name was Ann: Allin a tailor with hoome I lived awhill. . . ." Of his own family he says that he had had five children, that his eldest son went away from home twenty years before when about seventeen years of age and that his son Thomas Prince had been killed in the street when eight years old. At the time of writing, his family consisted of wife, two married daughters, the husband of one daughter, and their children. His wife when in London saw, he says, "y^r Sunn Thomas at my Cusson miltons house ou^r & y^r kinsman John Milton is deed and gone and young John Milton doe not thrive [?]. I also know y^r ssister y^r Dell [Dwell?] at powar wharff in Londone." He compares the ages of Governor Prence and himself in this fashion, "I dooe not knowe how to Expres my Loue innuf Unto: y^u but I Besetch y^u for to Excuse me for I ame anchent and near about Sevetie years of age and I doe veariely sopose y^u y^r self ar about that age now." He refers to the grandfather and grandmother of the Governor and himself in such manner that it is evident their home was in Lechlade or Leachlade. Of the grandfather, he "lernerd to be a wheelar and Breed mee and one of my Unkell Robarts Daffters." From this statement, it is probable that of the three sons, Thomas, Robert and Simon, of the grandfather, Thomas, father of the Governor, was the only son who lived to bring up his own children. Although as has been said, no record of the name Prence or Prince is to be found on the registers of All Saints, Barking, London, it is apparent, both from this letter of the nephew John Prince, as well as from his own will, that in or around London was the dwelling-place of the Governor's father, Thomas Prence. There we should search for the baptisms of his son Thomas and his daughters Katherine and Rebecca. While there is no indication that he lived in Lechlade after reaching majority, he may have done so. That there was his boyhood home seems quite probable.

Lechlade, or Leachlade, of the County of Gloucester and situated at the confluence of the Leach with the Thames, is seventy-six miles west from London. Unfortunately, the registers of the

Wash Howard Sr

Plymouth Mass 19 of the 5:71

your health and kind regards I desire with the hope of your
your worship may be pleased to know that our people
most having interests and confidence in the officers of the
union with the limitations of they have passed your judgment
to do it by course with them. I desire in our jurisdiction
v. x. the proportion of men and the charge taking the
out: without in whole and whole activity: without not
Howard with by very lately upon it: and with family
be spoken of with promise of amendment: and therefore
I desire and desire: that at the next meeting of the
Commissioners in September a large amount of the number
of men from sixteen years old to sixty of all parents may
be brought in from each colony: according to the terms
intend of that activity. and it is your duty shall be
and not only duty of your worship to get your self
that told that both your own colony and bondholders
do the best: that so the Confederation being established
as at first in road and duty: may that not amissably
faithfully and amicably be observed: to the glory of god
the honor of his name the good of his people in England
and small islands and I desire the good of Christ to be out
Lord in how I desire to be to be made

Howard Sr

Plymouth Mass 19 of
the 5:71

only Sr: this letter
is constant Southworth
will inform you of that take
through between us and the
indian at that point

and some of your people

There are, besides the five letters above alluded to, some ten or a dozen others at the library of the Massachusetts Historical Society which bear the signature of Thomas Prence. They are of the period 1659 to 1673 and deal more or less with the situation existing between the colonists and the Indians. One was written to Philip, himself, 27 May 1671; one to Roger Williams; one was in the form of an agreement of partnership of Governor Prence with Nathaniel Mayo and Simon Lynde for the establishment of a business in the making of spermacetti; one of instruction to Major Josiah Winslow; another to Major Leverett. The writing is crowded and difficult to read. One written to Boston, 19 of 5 month [old style] viz., 19 July 1671, was undoubtedly to Richard Bellingham, at that time the Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. This was deciphered with the courteous assistance of Mr. Julius H. Tuttle, librarian of the Massachusetts Historical Society. Through the kind permission of Mr. Tuttle, a photograph of this old letter was made by F. A. Saunderson, photographer, and appears herewith. It shows the quaint handwriting of the period, and reads:—

“Much honored S^r Plymouth this 19 of the 5: 71
your health and hapines sincerly desired with the rest of your
your worship may be pleased to take notis that our generall
Court having perused and Considered the articles of Confeder-
ation with their emendations as thay have passed your generall
Court do redily Concor with them exsept in on particlor
vix: the proportions of men and the Charg relating ther-
unto: mentioned in ninth and tenth article: which we
Conceve will ly very hevey upon us: and hath formerly
bin spoken of with promise of amendment: and therfor
ernestly desire and expect: that at the next meting of the
Commisioners in September a trew acoumpt of the number
of males from sixteen years ould to sixty of all rankes may
be brought in from each Colony: acording to the trew
intent of thes articles. ours if god permit shall be redy
and we earnestly entreat your worship to give your self
that troble that boeth your oun Colony and Coneticot may
do the like: that so the Confederation being reestablished
as at first in love and equity: may the mor amicably
faithfully and unviolably be observed: to the glory of god

the honor of his madjesty the good of his pepell in religious
and sivell respects acording to the gospel of Christ Jesus
our Lord in hom I desire ever to remain

honored Sr

unfeinedly

yours

Λ

to love

and serve

Tho. Prence

honored Sr: this bearer

Mr Constant Southworth
will inform you of the state
of things between us and the
Indians at this present

[This is endorsed on back]:

Gov^r Prence
To boston Jun 19
1671

[In another hand-
writing is added]:

July 19.—1671
No. 70

MARY (2) PRENCE, daughter of Thomas and Mary (Collier) Prence, was born, Duxbury, probably, about 1639. She married John Tracy, of Duxbury. He was born, about 1633-4, the son of Stephen and Tryphosa () Tracy. She died before 25 Jan. 1696/7. He removed to Windham, Conn., where he died, 30 May 1718, in his 85th year. The children of John and Mary (Prence) Tracy were, so far as known:—

John (3), the eldest son; married, perhaps, Deborah who, by 1702 was a widow Deborah Tracy;

Sarah (3),

Apphiah (3), who married John Sparrow, Eastham, 5 Dec. 1683;

Stephen (3), born about 1673-4; married Deborah Bingham, 26 Jan. 1707; she died, Windham, Conn., 6 Dec. 1735, in her 52d year; he died, Windham, Conn., 19 Dec. 1769, in his 96th year;

And, probably, the two following:—

Hannah (3), still single when gave deed, 28 June 1700

Susannah (3), who married James Rogers, Eastham, 17 Feb. 1697/8; had children, Mary, Isaac, Susannah, James, Abigail and Thomas; James Rogers died, Eastham, 8 Sept. 1751.

SARAH (2) PRENCE, daughter of Thomas and Mary (Collier) Prence, was born, Duxbury or Eastham, 1643-6, as approximated by town and cemetery records which are at variance in date of her death, the town giving it, 3 Mch. 1703/4, the cemetery, "March ye 3d 1706, in ye 60th Year of Her age." Her death must have occurred therefore, 3 Mch. 1704-6. Her husband, Jeremiah Howes, was the son of Thomas and Mary () Howes. He died, Dennis, 9 Sept. 1708, according to cemetery record. His death, as given upon town records, 9 Dec. 1708, is obviously an error, since his will of 14 Aug. 1708 was proved 6 Oct. 1708. The children of Jeremiah and Sarah (Prence) Howes, as determined from will, were:—

Jeremiah (3), born, Yarmouth, Mass., probably; married Mary Daggett; died, 6 Jan. 1705/6

Thomas (3), born, Yarmouth, probably; married Abigail Hussey, 5 Apr. 1700; died, 8 Aug. 1700;

Prence (3), born, Yarmouth, probably, about 1671; married Dorcas Joyce; died, 2 Oct. 1753 in his 84th yr.

Ebenezer (3), born, Yarmouth, probably, about 1674; married, 1st, Sarah Gorham; 2d, Lydia Joyce; died, 8 Jan. 1726/7

Elizabeth (3) born, Yarmouth, probably; married Jeremiah Bacon, 10 Dec. 1686.

Sarah (3), born, Yarmouth, probably; married Daniel Mayo before 14 Aug. 1708

Mary (3), born, Yarmouth, probably about 1672; married Joseph Hawes before April 1696; and died 10 Jan. 1728/9 in her 58th year

Bethiah (3), born, Yarmouth, probably; married 1st, Isaac Hawes, 8 Jan. 1700/1, 2d, John Smith, abt. 1741, 3d, Rev. Joseph Lord, 16 Nov. 1743

Mercy (3), born, Yarmouth, probably; married Samuel Sturgis, 17 Oct. 1700

Susannah (3), born, Yarmouth, probably; married Joseph Bassett, 27 Feb. 1706/7

Thankful (3), born, Yarmouth, probably; married John Miller, 23 Jan. 1706/7

Rebecca (3), born, Yarmouth, probably; married Ebenezer Hallett, 14 Aug. 1712

William Emery Nickerson, of Boston, Mass., traces his Prence line of ancestry in two ways, through Mary Prence and through Sarah Prence, both daughters of Governor Thomas Prence, viz.:

MARY PRENCE (2) who married John Tracy
APPHIAH TRACY (3) who married John Sparrow
REBECCA SPARROW (4) who married (1st) Joseph Collins
SARAH COLLINS (5) who married Stephen Atwood
MARTHA ATWOOD (6) who married Seth Nickerson
JONATHAN NICKERSON (7) who married Bethiah Young
JONATHAN NICKERSON (8) who married Sally Miller
AMOS NICKERSON (9) who married Mary Abbie Emery
WILLIAM EMERY NICKERSON (10) who married Nellie Rosalie
Partridge

SARAH PRENCE (2) who married Jeremiah Howes
SARAH HOWES (3) who married Daniel Mayo
DANIEL MAYO (4) who married Mary Mulford
ANNA MAYO (5) who married Barnabas Young
BETHIAH YOUNG (6) who married Jonathan Nickerson
JONATHAN NICKERSON (7) who married Sally Miller (As above)

HOMES OF GOVERNOR PRENCE

In the division of lands, 1623, Thomas Prence, with others who came in the Fortune, received, each, one acre of land "beyond the first brook to the wood westward." This was probably on or near what is now Cushman Street. It is not known that Prence had a house upon this first grant. By 1630 Robert Hicks had come into possession of all the land there allotted in 1623. Some time before January 1634, Thomas Prence occupied a dwelling-house on a thirty-acre lot "near Winslow's stand." John Winslow had a pasture near High Cliff and it was variously designated as "Winslow's walk" and Winslow's stand." Thomas Prence exchanged his house and thirty-acre lot with a thirty-acre lot of John Coombs, near High Cliff, 22 Jan. 1633/4.

He had, by 1636, a house at the lower end of North Street, and William T. Davis, in his *Ancient Landmarks of Plymouth*, considers it probable that that was his residence during his first term of office as governor, 1634. He, however, sold the property in February 1637 to John Atwood, for fourscore pounds. It was described as "a house and a garden place in Plymouth scituate and being in the lower end of the Northe Streete."

As early as 6 March 1637/8 his residence was in Duxbury, for on that date, when again chosen governor, he was granted permission to retain his residence at Duxbury if he could not without great detriment remove to Plymouth "the w^{ch} he pmiseth to doe if possibly he cann." As though to enable their governor to have his home in Plymouth, the following month he appears to have received a grant of a garden plot between Spring Lane and Mr. John Reynor's. This lot must have been located at or near the junction of High Street and Spring Lane, within a short distance of the south entrance to Burial or Fort Hill, as variously called, and on the path or way to Town Brook, where the water supply for the colonists lay. It is probable that he lived there during the greater part of his second term of one year as their governor. Ten acres in some convenient place about the town were granted to him, 5 Nov. 1638, and his selection appears to have been the rich bottom land which Benjamin M. Watson now occupies. It was known as Prence's Bottom and so designated in the inventory of the Governor's estate.

His residence at Duxbury was probably near the Plymouth line. He appears to have favored Duxbury, or the northern precinct of Plymouth, now Kingston, for his home. Grants and purchases of

lands lay at or in the locality of Jones River. In April 1642 he was living there. A deed of that date from John Coombs to Thomas Prence was of marsh land "lying before the house of the said Thom Prence at Joanes River next to the marsh meadow of Phineas Pratt." As late as 22 June 1644 he was of Jones River. "In case of alarume in tyme of warr or danger these divisions of the Township are to be observed and these companys to repaire together.

At Joanes River	{	mr Bradfords famyly one
	{	mr Princes one
	{	mr Hanbury one
	{	mr Howland one
	{	ffrancis Cooke one
	{	Phineas Pratt
	{	Gregory Armestrong
	{	John Winslow
	{	mr Lee"

In March 1645, to help to settle the indebtedness of £400 to John Beauchamp, Thomas Prence made over to Edward Freeman, attorney for said Beauchamp, real estate of his amounting to £145, viz.: house and garden place and barn in Plymouth, ten acres of upland in woods, five acres at the second brook, four acres by John Barnes' land and "One farme at Joanes River with the house doores locks glasse shelues etc. etc."

It is evident that Thomas Prence removed to Nausett about the time he sold his residence in Plymouth. On the 11th of July 1649, as of Nausett, he sold forty acres of upland at a place called Rocky Noocke [near Jones River]. It abutted on the bay and extended into the woods. From 1649 until 1662, deeds of land of Thomas Prence show his residence to have been in Nausett [Eastham]. Between the date of 8 Dec. 1662 when, as resident of Eastham, he gave two deeds to Samuel Freeman, and 1 June 1663, the colony had provided for him a residence at Playne Dealing [in Plymouth], previously described as lying between High Cliff and the Kingston line. On that date the Court voted to add a handsome room to his house there. Here he continued to live for the remainder of his life. Thacher, in his history of Plymouth, says, "Near the fourth brook was the seat of Governor Prince, being a farm given him by the General Court when he removed from Eastham in 1665, and was called Plain Dealing. This has since been known by the name of Lothrop's farm, now Hedge's farm." His house, as supposed by Davis, stood

in the south-west corner of the field and on the east side of the road, nearly opposite, possibly a little south-easterly of, the house occupied by Barnabas Hedge, Jr. It lay on or near the present site of the Plymouth Cordage Company.

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N MANCHESTER,
INDIANA

